

REMARKS

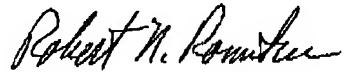
Claims 1-16, 18-21, and 23-24 are pending. Claims 1-14 are allowed. Claims 15-16, 20-21, and 23-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Claims 17-19 and 22 are objected to. Claims 15 and 18-20 are currently amended. Claims 17 and 22 are cancelled without prejudice.

Claims 15-16, 20-21, and 23-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rao (U.S. Pat. No. 6,041,389). Examiner states for the first time in an Advisory Action dated October 24, 2005, that address latch 606 and output latch 414 (Figure 4) of Rao read on the address table and data table of claim 15. Applicant respectfully disagrees and believes that Examiner's previous admission that Rao does not disclose an address table or data table (Office Action 7/19/2005, paragraph 2) is correct. Applicant, therefore, reserves the right to file a continuation with original claims 15 and 20. However, applicant has rewritten independent claims 15 and 20 to include the limitations of objected to claims 17 and 22, respectively. Claims 17 and 22 are cancelled without prejudice. Claims 18-19 are rewritten to depend directly from claim 15. Thus, applicant respectfully submits that claims 15-16, 20-21, and 23-24, as amended, are patentable under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Rao.

Figure 6 of the present invention discloses a volatile memory circuit 602 and a nonvolatile memory circuit 604. The volatile memory circuit 602 is shown in detail at Figure 8. The address table pointer 880 of claims 15 and 20 is arranged to address the address table (A0-Am). Applicant respectfully requests entry of the foregoing amendment to place the application in condition for allowance. MPEP 714.13 explicitly permits such an amendment which "merely cancels claims, adopts examiner suggestions, removes issues for appeal, or in some other way requires only a cursory review by the examiner." Here, the foregoing amendment is responsive to Examiner's suggestion to rewrite objected to claims in independent form. Furthermore, the amendment is a minor change and only requires a cursory review. Finally, to the extent the amendment eliminates confusion, it presents the claims in better form for consideration on appeal.

In view of the foregoing, applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of claims 15-16, 18-21, and 23-24. If the Examiner finds any issue that is unresolved, please call applicant's attorney by dialing the telephone number printed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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